

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

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notes in guidebooks and in the conversation of the people the prevailing disposition to measure all values in dollars, all impressions in square yards. A statue of a post 'cost \$3,000'; a building cost \$100,000, or it was the tallest or largest in the world. Washington Monument is the 'highest thing of its kind in the world,' and so on ad infinitum! This quantitative estimate of things strikes Lamprecht as unique, as peculiarly American, but he does not ridicule us; only wonders why—then makes his entry.

That is a fine criticism of our commercial spirit, but it does not imply lack of appreciation of art because we attach importance to the cost. It is rather an evidence of our appreciation of labor.

Mr. Lamprecht pays his respects to the statesmanship of the revolutionary epoch, but naively asks, 'Was this anything new?' and answers with the remark that this alone can be determined when the centuries have approved the bidding powers of the new institutions after it is determined whether the nature of the world intrinsically or in favor of other forms of social and governmental organization. In other terms, he thinks that our form of government and our institutions are still in the experimental stage, and yet need to be proved and established. We cannot agree with him in this skeptical view, yet all believers in true democratic institutions naturally have their faith somewhat shaken when they note strong tendencies toward reaction on the part of some of those men who profess and call themselves Democrats.

In matters of religion, Mr. Lamprecht thinks that we are heathen; that we do not actually accept what we profess to believe; that we acquiesce in our children because it is good form to do so, because it is harmless, and like the German Kaiser in matters of religion, we think it a good means of keeping our people faithful, or, what Americans prefer to say, 'conservative.' He thinks that our people do not actually believe in the divine mission of the Savior after the written and confessed creeds of the church, but are at heart Unitarians. Mr. Lamprecht got this idea in Germany rather than in America. For our part, we believe that the Christian religion as preached and exemplified by St. Paul and the early apostles is more firmly than ever established in the hearts of the American people.

In literature, in art, in philosophy, Mr. Lamprecht thinks, says Professor Doid, 'the most varied Antiquarian, pointing, however, in all our every instance, to London, Paris, Rome, or Berlin as the source of their art.' He wonders, for example, why American painters have never devoted their unquestioned abilities to producing the great picture gallery or the senseless swamps which so abound with us? Coming down to personalities, he recalls Edgar Allan Poe as the most voluminous artist America has produced, even though he did not find favor with the Stokely Hall, Longfellow, Holmes, and to some extent, Lowell, were in his estimation, retrospective literatures, and not by home and scripturally qualified, only a narrow circle, whose center was Harvard College.

This will greatly distress some of our Northern neighbors, but their quarrel must be with the German critic, and not with us. They must confess, however, that Mr. Lamprecht in passing judgment was not tainted with 'Southern prejudices.'

Law vs. Lynching. In one of our Virginia cities, and in the recent past, we have witnessed seven hundred soldiers marching in streets as if they were in a foreign country, and in a manner which has committed a serious wrong upon the people of that city. It is the responsibility of the State to see that the law is enforced, and that the soldiers are treated as such, and not as a mob.

Phonetic Spelling. Editor of The Times-Dispatch: It is a matter of greater importance than appears on the surface that President Roosevelt has taken the initiative in the phonetic spelling of the English language, and it is the duty of every citizen to support him in this noble and patriotic endeavor.

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Prohibition in Maine.

It is conceded that the paramount issue in the Maine contest was prohibition. The Democrats made recommitment to the people of the liquor-prohibitory amendment a part of their platform, while the Republicans stood squarely for endorsement of the prohibitory plan and its strict enforcement. It is especially significant that the Democrats carried all the twenty-one municipalities of the State with the exception of four of the smaller ones, and would have carried the State but for the fact that the vote of the country districts, where the recommitment idea has never gained any visible following, more than offset the Democratic gains in the cities.

How is it possible to enforce prohibition in the cities of Maine under these conditions? It is hard enough to do it where a majority of the people are in favor of it, but where the majority are clearly against it strict enforcement is next to impossible.

That is a question which each and every community must settle for itself. Local option is good Democratic and good sense.

Mr. Walter A. Edwards, one of the founders of the Norfolk Public Ledger, has retired from active newspaper work. It is with a sense of personal sorrow that we record the fact. He is one of the noblest fellows in the craft, and has ever been an honor to the profession. May good luck ever attend him.

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Rhymes for To-Day

Seasonable Bawls.

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AN ASSIGNMENT IN PETERSBURG

The Davis Manufacturing Company Fails on Account of Health of Its Secretary.

FELL FROM AN ELECTRIC CAR. Frank Surtor Cut About the Head and His Teeth Knocked Out.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) PETERSBURG, Va., September 12.—A deed of assignment of the Davis Manufacturing Company to William B. McWhorter, trustee, was recorded in the office of the clerk of the courts today. The assets are reckoned at about \$24,000. The immediate cause of assignment is understood to be the ill health of the secretary of the company, Mr. J. M. Tallefero, who will soon leave this city for a more suitable climate. T. J. Davis is president of the company.

The case of William and James Lamb, two white men, father and son, and Abram Stewart (colored), each charged with felony for engaging in a desperate drunken fight in the West End yesterday, was continued until Monday in the Superior Court this morning, a fine bond being required of William Lamb. Police Officer Ben George broke up the fight, which resulted in the stabbing of James Lamb in the back of the head.

Mr. Frank Surtor, of Church Street, was badly hurt by a fall from an electric car on Washington Street last night, while returning from the depot. It is not known exactly how Mr. Surtor reached his injuries, but he is supposed to have attempted to board the car from the wrong side. His head was severely cut and several teeth were knocked out.

A letter belonging to E. M. Bond, of Bristol, Va., and killed by the explosion of the powder of the Virginia Coal and Western 'Company' factory this morning, Howard Bane, the young white boy who was diving the horse, escaped unhurt, and claims that the explosion failed to warn him of the approach of the train which he started to cross the tracks.

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